

The donation of Pappas Telecasting Company of \$325,000 in airtime to Republican candidates, without doing the same for Democratic candidates, is an example of a powerful media group abusing its privileged access to the public airwaves.

Localism is not served when a corporate headquarters decides to provide one side in local elections a louder voice than others. During election season, local audiences should be offered genuine debate on equal financial bases -- not disingenuous offers to "purchase" an equal amount of response time for one side when the other side gets the time free of charge.

Pappas uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Pappas' actions are legally questionable and cast doubt on whether Pappas truly intends to serve the public interest. Their actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules and hold media companies more accountable.

Thank you.